



22 October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Well, 7 weeks are done and Term 1 is complete! As the evenings draw in and the weather moves us firmly into jumpers, scarves & hot chocolate territory the Half Term Break feels very welcome for a rest!

I wanted to use this last communication of the term to update you on how we are doing against some of school priorities and to highlight some of the positives from across the school as well as give you an insight into each of the Year Groups and how they have progressed through this first term. I will, however, start with a quick update from yesterday which was a busy day at MECE with Mock Interviews, a performance of Macbeth and a 'Human Library' for Year 8.

Year 7 started the day with a celebration in Tutor time to mark them successfully completing their first term at MECE with pastries, table tennis and highly competitive games of Uno. Meanwhile, for Year 11, the Mock Interviews initiative provides students the chance to practice the skills needed to be successful in College, Sixth Form or Apprenticeship interviews over the upcoming weeks and months. We are extremely grateful to local businesses, friends of the school and colleagues from the central Trust team who volunteered their time to support us across the morning. Many of Year 11 took the opportunity to dress to impress wearing 'business smart' for the day which helped set the tone for formal interviews where they had to identify personal strengths, times when they had overcome a challenge, Post-16 plans (and how they were progressing towards achieving them) and even where they saw themselves in 5 years. The feedback from both Year 11 and visitors was fantastic with visitors highlighting the engagement, smartness and politeness students displayed during their sessions. I must extend a huge thank you to Ms Dunn and Mrs Hills for co-ordinating the morning and ensuring it ran smoothly.





After the sessions had finished a number of our volunteers then stayed and took part in our 'Human Library' where students from Year 8 were able to ask questions about their different sectors of employment as well as their specific jobs. The Year 8s engaged really positively asking questions about what the working day looked like, what qualifications did they need and (of course) what the salary was. Again, a huge thank you to staff here as well as the volunteers for their time and efforts in ensuring this activity ran smoothly.

And then yesterday afternoon Years 10 & 11 enjoyed a performance of Macbeth to support their English GCSE. For Year 10 this was an opportunity to see the play fully before an in-depth analysis later in the year and for Year 11, a revision exercise ahead of PPEs after Half Term. Thank you to Mrs Thomas for organising the performance for the students.



Attendance

For 2025/6 we have made Attendance one of our key priorities – research and evidence tell us time and time again that the better the school attendance the greater likelihood of success not only at GCSE but that the impacts continue into adult life too. This year we have made concerted efforts to focus on 'Belonging' – as we know that when students feel they are known, and they are valued at school they are more likely to attend. We end the half term with a school attendance of 91.8% which is promising place to be despite equating to almost 1000 days of absence across the school. Years 7 and 9 are still leading the way with 95.8% and 92.8% respectively. Year 11, sadly, have just dipped below 90%. There continues to be a worrying trend of increased absence on Mondays and Fridays where disproportionate amounts of absence occur – something for us all to be mindful of. Overall though we have over 100 students who have maintained attendance over 95% which at this stage of the school year indicates 1.5 days off or less which is excellent.

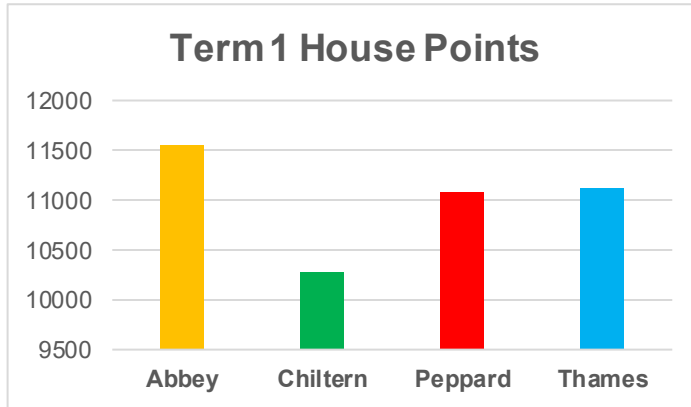
House Points

When reviewing our House Points we like to report and analyse in a number of ways. The first is 'Points per Pupil' – this allows for easier comparison between year groups. At the end of





Term the figures reveal that the average points per pupil are 115, with that number being significantly higher when looking solely at Y7 (171) compared to the older years.



The second is to look at cross year totals awarded to each House where Abbey have taken a strong lead at this early stage.

The top scorers from each year group are:

Year 7: Hazel, Austin, Elliot, Georgie, Laxita and Athina

Year 8: Leo, Charlotte, Isobelle, Edith, Lois and Anushka

Year 9: Olivia, Ellie, Zakary, David, Josh W & Lily P

Year 10: Libby, Poppy E, Oscar H, Oscar P, Kitty and Dylan

Year 11: James H, Samantha, Thomas, Natasha, Ruby-Rae & Edmund

Congratulations to all!

Students and parents can keep updated on House Points (and Behaviour Points), Attendance and Homework assignments via the Class Charts App – around 90% of families are engaged with the App and the anecdotal feedback from parents is that it is straightforward and informative. If you are yet to log in/activate your account, please do contact the office and we can help get you set up!

To finish this week, a few words from the Heads of Years:

Miss Jackson

It's been a brilliant first half term for **Year 9**, as they've settled into life at the top of Key Stage 3. We've focused a lot on resilience and responsibility - getting students to really think about the habits that will set them up for GCSE success next year. Their enthusiasm for school life has been fantastic, with so many getting involved in school show and school tours. They've shown confidence, kindness, and a growing sense of pride in the year group. Attendance has been strong too which shows just how committed this group are to being here, learning and supporting one another. I've been particularly proud of how they've supported one another, both in lessons and around school.

Year 10 have impressed me this term with how seriously they've taken the step into GCSE study. We've spoken a lot about effort, independence and ambition - and it's been brilliant to see students rising to that challenge. Their attendance, mostly (!), has remained above 90%, which is a testament to their commitment and focus. This half term also saw the launch of our





new queue jump passes, a well-earned reward for those who consistently meet expectations and set the standard for others. Beyond lessons, Year 10 have been brilliant ambassadors for the school, from supporting the show to mentioning younger pupils in local Primary Schools. They've shown real leadership and empathy - qualities that will serve them well as they move through KS4

Mrs Haycock

It has been an absolute pleasure to see **Year 7** settle into MECE. The enthusiasm amongst the cohort is clearly visible throughout the school both within lessons and outside of them. I was so proud to see how many Year 7 volunteer to help across both our open evening and open mornings, showing themselves as excellent tour guides, my particular favourite was the enhancement of staff, I know Mrs Howes enjoyed being introduced as a war veteran! Last week in our celebration assembly, I shared our fantastic positive point total which currently stands at an impressive 11,518, meaning that, on average, each student has gained 26 positive points a week! Before the assembly, I gave tutors the difficult task of assigning a 'Tutee of the Term' for the student who has consistently shown our values of Aiming High, Being Inclusive and Working Together. For 7A the student was Austin, Hazel for 7B and Eva for 7C. It was brilliant to see how equally proud the students were of their peers. During the assembly we have set ourselves a target to double our positive point total, I will of course keep you updated on the progress towards this! As we move into the next term. I have asked the students to set a personal target to share with their tutors and yourselves, the progress of these targets will then be celebrated in our next end of term assembly. I look forward to hearing about all the ways they are going to continue to challenge themselves!

It's been a true privilege to begin my fourth term with **Year 8!** Many students continue to demonstrate impressive dedication not only to their education but also to the school community as a whole. It was fantastic to see so many students actively supporting Open Evening, whether showcasing their chosen subjects or serving as tour guides.

This term, the group has been fortunate to participate in some unique opportunities—including the Book Buzz initiative, which provides schools with donated books to inspire a deeper love of literature. Once their books arrive, students will be challenged to write reviews that will be shared with Book Buzz, encouraging thoughtful reflection and engagement.

The Human Library event yesterday acted as the 'soft launch' of our upcoming 'Year of Opportunities' program, which focuses on community and career exploration. I'm incredibly excited for the official launch next term and look forward to sharing our progress with you all!

Mr Mount

It has been a great opportunity to assume the role of Head of Year 11 – with it comes the





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challenge of balancing student engagement, determination and motivation to succeed with the inevitable stresses this also brings. Year 11 made a really positive start to term with both attendance and lessons behaviour showing an improvement from where Year 10 ended which was great to see. There have been a few little wobbles in the term, however I was delighted to see the enthusiasm and maturity that Year 11 approached the Mock Interviews yesterday and know that they will also replicate this for the PPEs taking place directly after Half Term.

And that just leaves me to wish you all a very lovely break and I look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 3 November.

Yours

Miss E Bliss
Headteacher

